

than in the original version of the bill. Acreage to be designated for wilderness has been slashed in half. I am sure many citizens feel we have already compromised too much in meeting the concerns of development interests. Any further weakening of this bill would seriously undermine the integrity of these conservation proposals and the effort to preserve whole ecosystems so necessary to maintain this wilderness frontier and its myriad wildlife populations.

Mr. Chairman, I will personally support amendments to strengthen the wilderness provisions of H.R. 39. Wilderness designation for qualified areas is the best and most comprehensive form of protection for Alaska's wildlands and wildlife. It is the only way to make certain that Alaska will be a lasting wilderness frontier. The compromise version of H.R. 39 comes dangerously close to giving this essential protection to mere fragments of Alaska's wildlands, leaving the door open for the insidious sort of development pressures that can gradually erode the wild qualities that are the life of Alaska.

Many misunderstandings and misconceptions are clouding this entire issue of wilderness designation in general and for Alaska's national interest lands in particular. Clarification of a few of these misconceptions would be helpful during consideration of this legislation. Wilderness has often been erroneously criticized as single use management. This is far from the truth as wilderness permits numerous uses and serves a multitude of purposes. Wilderness protects watersheds and water quality, wildlife habitat and scenic landscapes. It preserves natural plant communities and the genetic diversity of complex ecosystems. Wilderness also provides unparalleled opportunities for recreation—not just backpacking, but canoeing, fishing, hunting, birdwatching, snowshoeing and general nature study as well as a chance to experience true solitude and the freedom and challenge of the wilds. A wilderness experience has become a source of physical, mental, and spiritual renewal for people of all ages and outlooks.

Wilderness designation by no means implies a "lockout", although certain activities and developments are specifically barred. However, the Wilderness Act does guarantee individuals access to valid property rights or mining claims within wilderness areas. It also permits use of aircraft or motorboats where their use is already established prior to designation of a wilderness area.

Such uses will continue under H.R. 39 since aircraft, snowmobiles and other forms of mechanized transportation are the most practical means of travel over Alaska's vast distances and are well-established uses. Trails may also be constructed in the wilderness and the Federal agency responsible for managing an area may take whatever administrative actions are necessary for the protection and safety of visitors.

It is a misconception that potential wilderness areas must be put through a formal study process prior to being designated. This is not required by the Wilderness Act, although it is one route

through which areas are eventually added to the system. Most of the units proposed for wilderness under H.R. 39 have in fact been reviewed for their suitability under section 17(d) (2) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act or according to the Wilderness Act process. The studies conducted by our Federal land managing agencies show without question that these lands qualify as wilderness and are eminently deserving of permanent protection. Further delay would make a mockery of the process.

I am hopeful that the spectacular Misty Fjords area of southeast Alaska's Tongass National Forest can be reinstated in H.R. 39. Wilderness designation for Misty Fjords and other key areas of the Tongass would not adversely affect the timber economy or employment levels in southeast Alaska and this is a fact supported by Forest Service data. Misty Fjords is an area of superb beauty, and wilderness is its highest and best use as it would protect irreplaceable natural values including salmon fisheries which are important to southeast Alaska's economy.

Unfortunately, there are people who look upon wilderness as a relic of another era, an anachroism in the modern world and a barrier to progress. Nothing could be further from the truth. As the great naturalist and forester Aldo Leopold has written,

The richest values of wilderness lie not in the days of Daniel Boone, nor even in the present, but rather in the future.

Our Nation's heritage was carved from the wilderness, and as the stresses of the modern world press more closely upon us, we will draw from the wilderness ever greater measures of vitality as a people.

Mr. Chairman, Alaska can make no greater contribution to this Nation than in offering us the opportunity to safeguard this last wilderness frontier as a gift to future generations. I urge passage of a strong H.R. 39 as the best means to this end.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROSTENKOWSKI) having assumed the chair, Mr. SIMON, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 39) to designate certain lands in the State of Alaska as units of the National Park, National Wildlife Refuge, Wild and Scenic Rivers and National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Sparrow, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2463. An act to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-87) to raise certain author-

ized funding levels contained therein, and for other purposes.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING: LOCAL STATIONS NEED OUR SUPPORT ON FUNDING

(Mr. LUKEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUKEN. Mr. Speaker, the Subcommittee on Communications, of which I am a member, has been working on proposals for funding public broadcasting for several months. We have voted on a bill which will renew funding for our public television and radio stations through 1983. I would therefore urge all of my colleagues to take this time to evaluate the service that your local public broadcasting stations offer to your communities. In doing so, I believe you will reach the same conclusion that I have: that public broadcasting is a valuable resource to our communities which deserves our maximum support.

I have seen what public television can do in Cincinnati—what it means to our citizens. Many of them have gone out of their way to tell me of their support for our local public television station, WCET. I hear from all kinds of people in my district: people of all occupations and religions, black and white, old and young alike. That is very important to me.

It is also important to this legislation, because the Federal funds are actually appropriated only if matched by non-Federal funds, such as those contributed to WCET by my constituents. In my district, individuals, local corporations, participants in the annual "Action Auction" and other sources provide a broad financial base for the station. In 1968 local members of WCET contributed less than \$50,000. Members last year contributed well over \$350,000.

That trend in increased local support, combined with provisions in the new bill, will mean that there will be more assurance that our local stations will have ample funding to continue the high quality of programming we have come to appreciate so much. The new bill lowers the matching funds ratio of local to Federal dollars from 2.5 to 1, to 2 to 1, making it easier for stations to obtain Federal funds while insuring that the principle of requiring local financial support remains.

In committee, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GORE, and I offered an amendment which revised the bill to guarantee local control over how funds are spent. The threat to local flexibility was present in an earlier version of the bill which set mandatory requirements as to how the community service grants should be spent. Our amendment passed, and now your local stations will still be able to spend these funds in a way which will best serve your own communities.

Public television is more than just an entertainment medium. The utilization of public television in schools—both public and private—has become a major resource to our educators. With the assistance of instructional television provided by WCET, a suburban school system

plagued by primary grade students reading well below the national average was able to turn the trend around in just 1 year. Now, after a 5-year period, this project has been spotlighted nationally as an example of the contribution that public television can make to the educational process.

The riches added to our lives by public radio and television are, in plain fact, perhaps the most inexpensive investment we would possibly make. That is why I am urging you to consider the value of public broadcasting in your own communities, and to vote for this legislation when it comes to the floor of the House.

ENORMOUS BUILDUP OF CONVENTIONAL AND STRATEGIC FORCES BY U.S.S.R.

(Mr. BOB WILSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous matter.)

Mr. BOB WILSON. Mr. Speaker, there is a growing number of our citizens, especially those who have in the past distinguished themselves in military service, who are sounding the alarm with regard to Soviet future intentions.

In almost every case, they point to the enormous buildup of conventional and strategic forces by the U.S.S.R. Not by any intelligent standard of measurement could this enlargement of the Soviet arsenal be construed as solely for their own self-defense.

The most recent of our former military leaders to speak out on this series of phenomena is former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway. In a letter to members of the Committee on Present Danger, General Ridgway said that he is growing "increasingly disturbed" over the actions of the administration.

General Ridgway went on to say—

I am convinced that we are on a collision course with the USSR's leadership and that unless there should be a radical change in its objectives, the outbreak of war is only a matter of time.

In his letter, the general reveals for the first time the existence of a report made in 1947 to General Eisenhower when he was Army Chief of Staff that spelled out fully the U.S.S.R.'s goal of achieving military domination of the world. That report has never been made public.

While not discussing his findings in that report, General Ridgway does note that:

I was impressed with the emergence of a pattern of Russian objectives, indicating to me the existence of coordinated basic objectives which I enumerated and which have been relentlessly pursued. I concluded that in that report well-know Russian moral codes and conduct indicated capabilities with a high degree of probability of accomplishment of its objectives, under an integrated plan to elevate the U.S.S.R. to the position of the dominant military power in the world.

Ridgway stresses that the report put no time limit on when the Soviets might reach the goal, but instead pointed out that regardless of when attained, that

military domination would represent a grave menace to U.S. security and the peace of the world.

In the 30 years since General Ridgway's analysis, there has been an immense change in the power relationship of the United States and U.S.S.R.

He writes:

That relationship has materially altered to our grave disadvantage, with little or no evidence of national recognition of that ominous change, and more vitally important, of a determined resolve to halt and reverse the trend of that change which still goes on.

General Ridgway concludes by saying:

The dearth of forceful, courageous leadership leaves me deeply distressed. Surely it cannot be any lack of recognition of the pattern of Russian objectives which have been uniformly revealed and adhered to over the past 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more with the general's analysis of the situation and our present position vis-a-vis the Russians. I only hope that we can turn our national thinking around in time—and not be forced to repeat history.

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KEMP) is recognized for 15 minutes.

[Mr. KEMP addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. HAGEDORN) is recognized for 15 minutes.

[Mr. HAGEDORN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CREDIT UNION NATIONAL ASSOCIATION PRAISED FOR STANCE ON REVERSE DEBIT TRANSACTIONS

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ANNUNZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

● Mr. ANNUNZIO. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the Credit Union National Association for its recent endorsement of consumer rights to reversibility in electronic funds debit card transactions. Reversibility would allow the consumers to stop payment on a debit card transaction.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud CUNA for its stand on this vital issue and its obvious concern for the rights of consumers using such transactions. Not only will the right to reverse transactions guarantee consumers fair credit protection, but it will also encourage them to overcome apprehensions in dealing with this new and rapidly growing system of money transactions.

CUNA, which represents most of the 23,000 credit unions and the 30 million individual members in this country, is the first financial institution to endorse the rights to reverse transfers. The as-

sociation should be proud of its responsible stance. Consumer groups across the country have long maintained that the protection afforded by reverse transfers is of key concern to consumers and CUNA should also be proud of its responsiveness to the public it represents and serves.

Mr. Speaker, this endorsement is especially timely in relation to the legislation now before us. This morning I introduced, along with a number of cosponsors, a clean bill amending the Consumer Credit Protection Act to guarantee consumers the right to reverse transfers. The Committee on Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs will meet Tuesday, May 23, to markup the bill.

It is imperative that speedy action is taken on this bill and consumers are given the protection they desperately need in electronic funds transfers.●

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GONZALEZ addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CUBAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FASCELL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

● Mr. FASCELL. Mr. Speaker, May 20 is Cuban Independence Day, the 76th anniversary of that nation's gaining of independence from Spain.

The successful culmination of Cuba's long struggle for freedom is a stirring tribute to the courage and dedication of its people. Unfortunately, our appreciation of this event is marred by the realization that Cuba has again fallen under the oppression of an imperialist power.

While the growing ability of the Soviet Union to dictate the policies of Cuba and its dictator Fidel Castro is cause for concern, it is important that we recall the people's victory in 1902 and recognize the hope that it may portend for the future.

We must never forget the proud heritage of Cuban independence, for it was won only after an arduous effort and great sacrifice by leaders of the revolution. Maximo Gomez, Antonio Maceo, and Jose Marti were among the architects of Cuban independence, and their deeds remain a vivid part of Cuban history.

Jose Marti, called the "Apostle of Cuban Independence," still commands the widespread devotion of the Cuban people, who revere him as the greatest hero of the independence movement. Although he died in battle on May 19, 1895, his death fused the Cuban people into an adamant resolve to win their freedom. The revolution had been his creation, and he remained the first among many martyrs.

In recent years, various comments have been made that the United States should end its policy of opposing the Castro regime in Cuba, drop its economic